

Today's News - Wednesday, June 6, 2012

- Lambert and Bumbaru call for a stop to the demolition of an "extraordinary group of Romanesque Revival buildings" or "Montreal and the province of Quebec stand to lose an essential part of their cultural identity."
- A great report on a program that tackled Foster's plans for the New York Public Library that make some preservationists "cringe" (starchitecture notwithstanding).
- The public is welcome to offer their input re: 3 options being put forth for Rudolph's Sarasota High School renovations. Meanwhile, Long Beach, California, seems to be taking the "traditional and uninspiring scorched-earth policy of demolish and re-build versus renovate and rehabilitate" with plans to replace an "amazing collection of historic school buildings."
- On a more contemporary note, Finch says English Heritage is too obsessed with tall towers.
- Plans for new development in Ilfracombe, U.K. - which include Damian Hirst's 500 eco-homes - are unveiled (it all looks a bit twee to us).
- Heathcote's heart seemed to have soared through the revamped Palais de Tokyo in Paris: "it is perhaps Europe's finest space at this scale" and "a viscerally memorable experience."
- Corning Museum of Glass taps Thomas Phifer and Partners for a \$64 million expansion (bravo!).
- Nyren offers up 10 community/recreation centers that are "model design strategies and partnerships for strengthening communities."
- The GSA scandal has "architects holding their breath" about how it might affect the Design Excellence Program ("My eyebrows went up and they haven't gone down," said Laurie Hawkinson).
- Iovine reports on BWAF's "A View from the Future" forum that "was like a mini-TED: fact-packed, amusing and globally informed."
- AIBC hands out awards for the best new architecture in British Columbia.

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Stop the wrecking ball on the Main: The Architectural heritage of St. Laurent Blvd. and its greystones...being demolished...must be preserved...the extraordinary group of Romanesque Revival buildings...form a pioneering and vigorous example of late-19th-century Montreal's modernism and popular culture. By Phyllis Lambert/Canadian Centre for Architecture and Dinu Bumbaru/Héritage Montréal -- Henry Hobson Richardson; Daoust and Gendron- Montreal Gazette

What Do Norman Foster's Plans for the New York Public Library Mean for its Storied Architecture? ...a real conversation about its future as an architectural treasure is just now emerging — and thankfully so...update would require a wide-ranging remodelling that makes some preservationists cringe. -- Carrere & Hastings (1911); Foster + Partners [links]- Artinfo

Input requested on Sarasota High School renovations: The district is holding a design charrette after some expressed concerns about maintaining the school's architectural integrity. --- Paul Rudolph; Sarasota Architectural Foundation [link to 3 options]- WWSB, ABC 7 (Florida)

OP-ED: Should We Really Be Tearing Down Our Old Schools? ...begin the death knell for our city's amazing collection of historic school buildings...the traditional and uninspiring scorched-earth policy of demolish and re-build versus renovate and rehabilitate...By continuing down the path...we exhibit shortsighted and provincial thinking. But, it is not too late. -- Kenneth Wing (1956); Hugh Gibbs (1963); George Kahrs (1935) [images]- Long Beach Post (California)

Paul Finch says EH [English Heritage] "obsesses" about tall towers: Architectural quality is more important than height, Design Council Cabe director adds...pointing out its objections to Renzo Piano's Shard and KPF's Heron Tower as examples. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Vision of town extension unveiled: The display for Ilfracombe's proposed southern extension – which is likely to include up to 500 eco-homes from Damien Hirst – attracted more than 300 people... -- David Lock Associates; MRJ Rundell Architects [images]- North Devon Journal (UK)

Thinking outside the white box: A Paris art museum has been expanded and stripped back to create an original space: From the beginning, the [1937] Palais de Tokyo seemed an ill-fated art museum...It now claims to be the largest space for contemporary art in Europe...it is perhaps Europe's finest space at this scale...a viscerally memorable experience. By Edwin Heathcote -- Lacaton & Vassal- Financial Times (UK)

Corning Museum of Glass Unveils Plans for \$64 Million Expansion: Design Features New Light-filled Contemporary Gallery and Live Glassmaking Spaces: ...new North Wing linking three generations of glass architecture...a collection of buildings designed by Harrison & Abramowitz, Gunnar Birkerts, Smith-Miller + Hawkinson, and Bohlin Cywinski Jackson. -- Thomas Phifer and Partners; Reed Hilderbrand Associates; HAIGHArchitects [image]- PR Web

The Power of Play: Ten community/recreation centers model design strategies and partnerships for strengthening communities. By Ron Nyren -- City Architecture; EE&K/Perkins Eastman; ELS Architecture; Kanner Architects; Cambridge Seven Associates; Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture/CBTwo Architects; George Ranalli; Dattner Architects; Kirksey Architecture; Hughes Condon Marler Architects [images]- Urban Land Magazine (ULI)

GSA Shock Absorbers: Architects holding their breath as the country's landlord is engulfed by scandal...coupled with alarm that some of the General Services Administration's hallmark initiatives, such as the Design Excellence Program, would suffer in the political fallout. -- Smith-Miller + Hawkinson Architects; Rogers Marvel Architects; Ed Feiner/Perkins+Will; ZGF Architects; H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture- The Architect's Newspaper

Trends Are Coming: ..."A View from the Future"...opening talk...was like a mini-TED: fact-packed, amusing and globally informed...segueing into the "8 growth areas of the next economy" ... By Julie V. Iovine -- Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation; Edie Weiner/Weiner, Edrich, Brown- The Architect's Newspaper

British Columbia's best architects recognized : The Architectural Institute of B.C. (AIBC) recently handed out awards for the best designed projects and firms in the province. -- Busby Perkins+Will Architects (now Perkins+Will Canada Architects Co.); Patkau Architects; mcfarlane biggar architecture + design (nowmcfarlane biggar architects + designers, and Michael Green Architecture); WMW Public Architecture + Communication [images]- Journal of Commerce (Vancouver)

The Geeky Side of Design: "Architects are often phenomenal at connecting us to the outdoors, but horrible at disconnecting us when it's necessary. And that is the fundamental problem with architecture today," says the sometimes irreverent but always straight-talking Joe Lstiburek, Ph.D., P.Eng. By Wendy Ordemann- ArchNewsNow

INSIGHT: Let's Quiet Down: The Case for Places, Regionalism, and Sustainability: Architecture should be concerned primarily with place-making, not object-making. By Peter Gisolfi, AIA, ASLA, LEED AP- ArchNewsNow

-- Jan Kaplicky/Future Systems; Andrea Morgante: Enzo Ferrari Museum, Modena, Italy
-- Grimshaw Architects: Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science, Miami, Florida

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